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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5 APPLICANT: FERNIE et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 09/986,050  
FILED: October 22, 2001  
TITLE: "PATIENT TRANSFER DEVICE"  
EXAMINER:  
10 GROUP ART UNIT:

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

15 February 20, 2002

Dear Sir:

20 PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to substantive examination, please amend the above mentioned application as follows:

25 IN THE DISCLOSURE:

Before page 1, line 1, please insert the following:

-- This application is claims priority benefit from application serial number

5  
-- This application is claims priority benefit from application serial number 09/420,648  
filed October 19, 1999, <sup>NOW ABANDONED</sup> which is a Continuation of application serial number  
08/964,999 filed November 5, 1997, <sup>NOW ABANDONED</sup> This application also claims priority benefit from  
PCT application serial number PCT/CA00/001137, filed October 6, 2000.--

Respectfully Submitted,

10 *Thomas A. O'Rourke*

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Response was mailed by first class mail,  
postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington D.C. 20231, this 22nd day of February, 2002.

  
Thomas A. O'Rourke